

20 AUGUST 1998

Logistics

PRECIOUS METALS RECOVERY PROGRAM



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OPR: 437 SUPS/LGSPP ()
Supersedes CAFBR 400-3, 8 June 94

Certified by: (Lt Col Jerry L. Bateman Jr.)
Pages: 4
Distribution: F; X: 437 MXS/CC; 437 TRANS/CC
437 AGS/CC; 437 MDG/CC; 437 SPS/CC;
437 SUPS/LGSPP/LGSPT (5); HQ AMC/LGSMS

This instruction establishes procedures and assigns responsibility for the recovery, control, and disposal of precious metals from waste of photographic materials and other scrap and waste items which are reduced to waste through use and are made up of an economically recoverable amount of precious metals. This instruction implements DOD 4160.21M; TO-00-25-113 (all series); AFMAN 23-110V6; AFM 67-1, Vol I, Part Two, Chapter 13; AFM 67-1, Vol II, Part One, Chapter 4, Paragraph 20; and AFM 67-1, Vol VI, Chapter 4, AMC Supplement 1. It applies to all organizations, both host and tenant, who generate precious metals bearing property, scrap, and waste materials.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This revision replaces the Chief, Asset Management Flight with the Chief, Inspection Element as the Primary Base Precious Metals Monitor (paragraph 3.2.). The Asst. NCOIC, Storage and Issue Element has replaced the Chief, Storage and Issue Element as the Alternate Base Precious Metals Monitor (paragraph 3.2.).

1. Program Objective. The Precious Metals Recovery Program (PMRP) is established to ensure precious metals (i.e. gold, silver, platinum, etc.) are reclaimed, refined, and used for authorized internal purposes. Due to the Department of Defense (DOD) increased emphasis in precious metals, all Air Force activities must ensure internal controls and security measures are put into effect. Emphasis is also required in accounting, documentation, and safeguarding of these metals at all levels.

2. General. The recovery of precious metals is of the utmost importance. The cost of precious metals, coupled with continued emphasis in the area of fraud, waste, and abuse, dictates absolute control and

accountability. Precious metals are based primarily on their resistance to both heat and oxidation. Silver is available for recovery from several sources; exhausted processing solutions (hyposolution); scrap film, polaroid film back, film ash, unserviceable silver-cell batteries; drilling from anode and used welding rods; brazing wire and scrap produced from its use, silver-bearing amalgam or scrap from it; expended desalting kits or from any products that have silver residue. The term "silver bearing scrap" as used herein pertains to the above sources. Activities with the potential to generate precious metals scrap are overhaul and repair shops, plating shops, photographic laboratories, film libraries, medical or maintenance x-ray laboratories, dental clinics and laboratories, and Pass and Identification of Security Police. The main source of gold would come from dental work, electronic connector pins and possibly some types of scrap wire. This instruction does not apply to Base Supply property which is processed to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) as a result of being excess to Base Supply. Items that are excess to the inventory will be processed to DRMO in accordance with established procedures. The procedures set forth here do not bar the local use of recovered precious metals for authorized programs.

3. Responsibilities.

3.1. Wing Commander. The Wing Commander, 437 AW/CC, appointed the Chief of Supply as the Base Precious Metals Recovery Program Monitor. This designation will ensure an effective program for identification, control, and recovery of precious metals.

3.2. Base Monitor. The Chief of Supply has designated the Chief, Inspection Element (437 SUPS/LGSDI), and Asst. NCOIC, Storage and Issue Element (437 SUPS/LGSDS), as the primary and alternate (respectively) Base Precious Metals Monitors (PMM) to act on behalf of the Chief of Supply. The base monitor will ensure procedures outlined in this instruction are enforced within each activity as to their assigned responsibilities and will provide guidance for safeguarding, accountability, and processing of precious metals to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO).

3.3. Generating Activities.

3.3.1. Commanders are responsible for identifying activities within their area of responsibility which generate/store precious metals and/or precious metals bearing scrap.

3.3.2. Commanders of activities participating in PMRP will appoint a primary and alternate Precious Metals Recovery Monitor (PMRM). These individuals will be familiar with the program directives and will monitor the program within the activity to ensure full program compliance and act as a point of contact for Supply. The name, location, and phone number of the appointees will be provided annually, or when changes are made, to 437 SUPS/LGSDI during June and December of each year, the commander of each activity will review his/her program to ensure overall compliance. The written results of this review will be forwarded to the same office in Supply.

4. Recovery Methods.

4.1. Silver recovery of spent photographic hyposolution.

4.1.1. The NDI shop receives spent hyposolution from the Photo Laboratory in three or five gallon plastic containers.

4.1.2. The Equipment Maintenance Squadron Commander will designate a Silver Recovery Monitor (SRM) and alternate (SRMA), a Silver Recovery Witness (SRW) and alternate (SRWA), and an official weigher. These designees will be a military grade E-6 (or higher) or equivalent grade civilian and will be appointed by letter. The designated alternates will perform only in the absence

of the primary. The handling of silver residue (remaining plates, stripping, etc.) will only be accomplished in the presence of both the SRM and SRW or their alternates. Other participating organization commanders will make similar appointments as they deem necessary.

4.1.3. SRM responsibilities. The SRM will ensure:

4.1.3.1. Rooms containing the electrolytic recovery unit are adequately safeguarded and properly secured and only authorized personnel are permitted access.

4.1.3.2. Silver removed from a silver recovery unit and stripping is safeguarded until it has been properly transferred to the DRMO.

4.1.3.3. Procedures are affected to provide an auditable trail of recovered silver from the reclaim unit through the transfer to DRMO. Records will be maintained separately for the recovery of silver from hyposolution received from the Photo Laboratory.

4.1.3.4. Silver is accurately weighed, accounted for in grams, and placed in a secure container. The weight will be annotated on DD Form 1348-1, DOD Single Line Item Release/Receipt Document and certified by SRW and one copy forwarded to 437 SUPS/LGSDI.

4.1.3.5. A designated official is present when subject material is being transferred to supply for transfer to DRMO. The weight annotated by the DRMO representative is the official weight.

4.1.4. Silver-Bearing Amalgam. Dental scrap containing silver and elemental mercury must be packaged in nonporous, smooth containers (not glass) in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of loss through leakage or container breakage.

4.2. Recovery of Precious/Critical Alloy Metals. Parts containing precious metals/ alloys can be identified by trained personnel through the aide of TO-00-25-113 series or other means. Scrap parts identified containing precious metals/alloys will be tagged, marked, and accumulated in suitable containers to indicate the principal alloy group (DPDS-M 4610.12). These containers will be turned into DRMO through the Base Supply Monitor.

5. Compliance.

5.1. Each activity participating in precious metals recovery will ensure all responsibilities set forth in pertinent directives are performed.

5.2. Precious metals and scrap will be adequately safeguarded at all times to prevent theft or pilferage. All activities will set up a safe place for storing precious metals and scrap. The PMM will be contacted if assistance is required in obtaining safes or other equipment to store precious metals or scrap.

5.3. Collection points which are secure but do not require use of a safe will be clearly marked as scrap precious metals collection points and appropriate containers will be used to collect segregated types of precious metals scrap. These containers are not to be used for collection of any other material. The locations of these collection points are as permanent as possible.

5.4. Handling of precious metals or scrap will be limited to designated personnel only.

5.5. All activities participating in the recovery of precious metals program will maintain records for the following:

5.5.1. Date scrap was collected.

5.5.2. Type of scrap.

5.5.3. Quantity.

5.5.4. Document number of transfers.

5.5.5. Date hyposolution was transferred or received.

5.5.6. Name(s) of individual(s) transporting precious metals or scrap to Base Supply Inspection Element.

5.5.7. Name of individual accepting precious metals or scrap in Base Supply. Coordination will be made with the Base Supply PMM or alternate before moving precious metals or scrap to the Inspection Element.

6. The Base Supply Precious Metals Monitor Duties and Responsibilities.

6.1. Act as liaison between DRMO and activities participating in the Precious Metals Recovery Program.

6.2. Resolve questions and problems resulting from the recovery and processing of precious metals.

6.3. Perform a semiannual survey (January and July) in accordance with AFM 67-1, Vol VI, Chap 4, AMC Supplement 1, of those activities participating in the Precious Metals Recovery Program.

6.4. Coordinate with DRMO on the time, date, and amounts of precious metals to be moved.

6.5. Ensure all precious metals and scraps are transferred to DRMO using the following units of issue:

6.5.1. Grams - Gold: bridgework, caps, teeth, trimmings, grindings, dust, metallic foil and leaf, wire, casting powder, and brazing alloys. Platinum family: platinum, rhodium, palladium, ruthenium, tridium, osmium, dental alloys, scrap, sweepings, jewelry, laboratory ware, sludges, and wire. Silver: Used anodes, machining, grain silver, wire, and sterling. Metallic Silver: flake derived from electrolytic processing hyposolution.

6.5.2. Pounds - silver dental amalgam and all other precious metals bearing scrap not listed in paragraph [6.5.1](#).

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